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ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1938.

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WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) ALFRED BYERS, M.D.

*Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector.....G. H. LANCASTER, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.....G. ELLIS, Cert. R.S.I.
(TEMPORARY) Appointed 3rd October, 1938.

*The duties of Building Inspector are also carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	7,705
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population, mid-year 1938	14,590
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)	4,773
Rateable value (31st December, 1938)	£125,195
Sum represented by a penny rate	£514

SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The population is largely residential, many persons being engaged in business in Manchester. There are no large works in the district. The outer part of the area is rural.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	209	104	105	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	14.39
	Illegitimate	1	1	—		
Still-Births		5	4	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	23.26
Deaths		152	65	87	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	10.42

Death-rate corrected for age and sex distribution, for comparisons with Death-rate for England and Wales...	9.79
For England and Wales, Birth-rate per 1,000 total population — Live Births ...	15.1
— Still Births ...	0.60
Death-rate per 1,000 total population...	11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29—Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30—Other puerperal causes ...	1	4.65
	1	4.65

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births...	38.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	38.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
All infants, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births	53.0

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(*a*) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change.

(*b*) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

No change. The service is adequate.

(*c*) NURSING IN THE HOME.

No change.

(*d*) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

No change.

(*e*) HOSPITALS.

No Change.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

GENERAL.

Antitoxin for the treatment of Diphtheria is provided by the Council.

Material for artificial immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for use in necessitous cases.

The following bacteriological examinations were made at the Manchester Public Health Laboratory:

	Total	Positive
Diphtheria (Throat Swabs)	29 ...	1

Examinations made in the Laboratory of the County Council:

	Total	Positive
Tuberculosis (Sputum)	23 ...	2

No action taken in regard to the use of Measles Serum.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	**18**	**11**	—
Pneumonia	**6**	—	—
Diphtheria	**7**	**6**	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	**1**	—	—
Erysipelas	**4**	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	**1**	—	—
Pneumococcal Meningitis	**1**	**1**	—

Cases included in the above list occurring in Handforth:

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Pneumonia	1	—	—

Additional cases notified from the Styal Cottage Homes:

Scarlet Fever	1
Diphtheria	2
Pneumonia	2
Erysipelas	1

AGE GROUPS

	—1,	1—,	2—,	3—,	4—,	5—,	10—,	15—,	20—,	35—,	45—,	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	—	—	8	7	—	3	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	1	4	1	—	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	3	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prevention of Blindness.

No action taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936 for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury of the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	NEW CASES Respiratory M.	NEW CASES Respiratory F.	NEW CASES Non-Respiratory M.	NEW CASES Non-Respiratory F.	DEATHS Respiratory M.	DEATHS Respiratory F.	DEATHS Non-Respiratory M.	DEATHS Non-Respiratory F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	1	2	5	—	—	—	—

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade). No action taken.

Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis). No action taken.

ALFRED BYERS,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wilmslow Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1938 as follows:—

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

As stated in previous reports, the district is now served over the whole area by the Stockport Corporation water mains. A small number of houses and farms, however, still rely on wells for their water and attempts have been made to persuade the owners to have their premises connected to the main supply.

The quality and quantity of the water from wells and mains appears to have been satisfactory and consequently no samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No major improvements were made in the arrangements for the drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in the area.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken in connection with the pollution of rivers and streams.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

WILMSLOW. The number of closets on the conservancy system which are within a reasonable distance of a sewer has not been lowered much during the year under review. There are seventeen ashclosets and four pail closets to be converted to water closets, but as nine of the

houses are under consideration for demolition, it will be seen that very few closets still require conversion. There are still many ashclosets in use in the outlying parts of the district which cannot be dealt with because of the absence of a sewer.

HANDFORTH. When the Handforth sewer was completed in 1937, there were 135 ashclosets and 8 pail closets in use. Since then all owners have been asked to convert the closets to the water carriage system, with the exception of the owners of those houses which are to be demolished in the near future. The number of closets dealt with and remaining to be dealt with in the Handforth Ward is as follows:—

	1937	1938	Remaining
No. of ashclosets converted to water closets	43	36	29
No. of pail closets converted to water closets	2	—	2
	45	36	31

It will be observed that the number of closets still in use at the end of the year and requiring conversion does not include those houses which are to be demolished because of unfitness or road widening.

STYAL. No change has taken place at Styal where over 180 pail closets are emptied weekly by Council employees.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse has been collected and disposed of as in previous years. It is the practice to carry out a weekly collection and all refuse is disposed of by tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

The total number of inspections made with respect to each section of the work is as follows:

	Inspection and Visits
HOUSING.	
No. of Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	157
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress ...	236
No. of Houses inspected under the Housing Acts...	87
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress ...	97
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.	
Slaughterhouses	191
Butchers' Shops, Stalls and other food shops ...	14
Cowsheds	76
Milkshops and Dairies	18
GENERAL.	
Factories and Workplaces (including Bakehouses)	92
Tents, Vans and Sheds	20
Shops Act, 1934	5
Infectious Diseases	7
Water Supply	4
Miscellaneous	47
	1,051

Shops and Offices.

SHOPS.—Under the Shops Act, 1934, it is the duty of the sanitary authority to enforce certain provisions relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. With the exception of an application for a certificate exempting a shop from providing a sanitary convenience, which was granted by the Council because other accommodation was available, no other inspections were made or any other action taken.

OFFICES.—Since the passing of the Public Health Act, 1936, all places where clerical employment takes place have been included in the definition of "workplace" and the authorised officer has the right of entry into offices for the purposes of inspection and the local authority may take action to abate any nuisance or deal with such matters as insufficient ventilation, uncleanliness, or overcrowding in offices. Although the Ministry of Health has urged for a systematic inspection of offices to be arranged so that existing conditions can be ascertained, I regret to report that it has not been possible to meet with this request during the year under review.

Camping Sites.

The Public Health Act of 1936, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1937, contains new law for the control of moveable dwellings to which the building byelaws do not apply. The new legislation is directed to the control of holiday camping, a practice to be encouraged in the interests of national health, but which in the absence of any previous control has brought certain difficulties from sanitation and other problems in its train. All camping sites must now be licensed by the local authority if camping takes place for a period in excess of 42 consecutive days or 60 days in any consecutive 12 months. The licence may be granted to a person, such as a farmer, allowing him to let a certain parcel of land to different persons for camping, or licences may be granted to individual campers allowing them to erect a moveable dwelling at a certain place within the district. The local authority may attach such conditions to the licence as they think fit, such as the space to be kept free between any two dwellings and with respect to water supply and for securing sanitary conditions.

In Wilmslow, only one such site has been licensed by the Council and in this case permission has been granted for 80 tents to be erected at any one time. Pail closets were provided and it is a condition of the licence that they are emptied at the end of each day on which camping takes place. The water supply is obtained from a well in the farm yard and a sample was submitted for analysis before the licence was granted.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints of the emission of smoke of a serious nature were received during the year, but my attention was drawn to two cases where smoke was being emitted from the chimney of heating installations in such quantities as to be a nuisance. The complaints were brought to the notice of the occupiers and steps were taken to abate the nuisances.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in this district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Fortunately Wilmslow is not troubled with this type of pest. No verminous houses were reported or discovered and no disinfestation was done during the year and therefore the questions which the Ministry of Health require to be answered as to the number of houses disinfested, the methods employed and by whom carried out, do not arise.

Schools.

During the year all the elementary schools were visited and requests were made to the school managers for a number of improvements to be made such as the conversion of ashclosets to water closets, the provision of suitable urinal accommodation, additional washbasins, the proper paving of playgrounds, and several minor repairs.

By the end of the year only a few items of work had been done and the major improvements still required urgent attention.

Factories Act, 1937.

The total number of factories on the register is 96.

The trades carried on at the respective premises are as follows:—

Bakehouses	21
Boot Repairers	15
Brickworks	1
Builders Workshops	12
Farriers and Blacksmiths...	4
General Engineers	3
Knitted Wear	2
Laundries	1
Metalworks	2
Monumental Sculptors	2
Plumbers and Painters	5
Printers	4
Restaurant Kitchens	3
Scrap Metal Dealers	2
Tailors and Dressmakers	7
Upholsterers and Cabinet Makers... ...	4
Watch and Clock Repairers	3
Miscellaneous	5
	96

1.—INSPECTIONS

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1	2	3	4
Factories with mechanical power	27	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	65	1	—
Other Premises under the act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	—	—	—
Total ...	92	1	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
1	2	3	4	5
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).... ..	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) — insufficient	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) — unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) — not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factory Act, 1937).	2	2	—	—
Total	6	6	—	—

Housing.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

(1) *(a)* Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 244

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 333

(2) *(a)* Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (I) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 82

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 97

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 26

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 49

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 8

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:

(A).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(B).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(C).—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

(D)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING:

(*a*)—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 6

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 6

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 52

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

(*c*)—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 4

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 28

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authorities have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report — See general observations below.

General Observations.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

The inspections under this heading are those made in compliance with the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932. The houses inspected during the year under these regulations were as follows:—

Dean Road, Handforth	2
Hawthorn Street	15
Hawthorn View	6
Lindow Common	1
Mill Brow...	6
Oak Lane	6
Park Road...	23
Rectory View	10
Wilmslow Road	9
Manchester Road	4
	82

As a result of the above inspections 26 houses were reported to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and not repairable at a reasonable cost; 49 houses were found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation and consequently informal notices were served on the owners requiring certain repairs to be carried out, most of which by the end of the year was either completed or in progress; and no action was taken in the case of the remaining 7 houses.

OVERCROWDING.

Once again their was a decrease in the number of families living in overcrowded houses. Ten houses were overcrowded at the beginning of the year, but by December, 1938, four families had been able to find accommodation large enough for their needs or they had remedied the overcrowding by other means. As no new cases were discovered during the year, this means that 6 families, with a total of 52 persons, are still living in overcrowded conditions.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

The following table shews the position as to the number of milk producers and retailers on the register on the 31st December, 1938:—

No. of cowkeepers	76
No. of cowkeepers also registered as retail purveyors of milk	38
No. of retail purveyors of milk	56

There is one farm in the district where Tuberculin Tested milk is produced and 30 farms where Accredited milk is produced. It is my object when inspecting farms where non-designated milk is produced to obtain the same conditions in the cowsheds and dairies and the same standard of cleanliness as is required of the Accredited producers by the County Council.

In my opinion, effecient sterilisation of all churns, bottles and other equipment can only be carried out by the use of a steam sterilising chest and all farmers and dairymen are urged to use this method. At the moment 24 steam chests are in use in the district.

Whenever possible, cowkeepers are recommended to have water bowls laid on to the shippons so that a plentiful and pure supply of drinking water from the mains is available for the animals at all times. Thirty-three farms in the area are now fitted with these automatic drinking bowls.

There is still room for considerable improvement in the existing conditions at some of the dairy farms in the area and it is hoped that it will be possible to devote more time to this subject in the near future.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The following licences were granted by this Council under the above Order and continued in operation until 31st December, 1938:—

Dealers' Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk.	10
Dealers' Licences to sell "Accredited" Milk	3
Dealers' Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	2
Dealers' Licences to bottle "Accredited" Milk ...	1
Supplementary Licence to sell "Pasteurised" Milk ...	1

No samples of graded milk were submitted for examination during the year.

Meat and Other Foods.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

No change took place in the number of slaughter-houses in use in the area. There are ten private slaughter-houses where killing takes place regularly, situated as follows:—Wilmslow 8, Handforth 2, and Styal 1.

The Ministry of Health urge that every effort should be made to inspect the carcases of all the animals slaughtered in the district. At the moment, it is impossible to carry out anything like a hundred per cent. inspection but as many carcases as possible are examined. The following tables show the number of carcases inspected and the amount of meat condemned as a result of those inspections :—

TABLE OF CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	176	14	176	197
All diseases except Tuberculosis— Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis....	6·8	—	—	3·04
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcases condemned	7	—	—	1
Carcases of which some parts or organ was condemned	29	—	—	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	20·4	—	—	9·13

Meat Condemned and Destroyed.

TUBERCULOSIS.

BOVINES.

Whole Carcases and Offal	7
Heads and Tongues	7
Sets of Lungs	19
Livers	4
Mesenteries	3
Udders	2
Spleen	1

SWINE.

Whole Carcase and Offal	1
Heads	9
Sets of Lungs	4
Plucks	5
Mesenteries	2

OTHER CONDITIONS.

BOVINES.

Hind Quarter (badly bruised)	1
Buttock (badly bruised)	1
Head and Tongue (Actinomycosis)	1
Livers (Distomatosis 2, Abscesses 2, Cirrhosis 5)	9

SWINE.

Whole Carcase and Offal (Jaundice)	1
Heart (Pericarditis)	1
Plucks (Congestion)	2
Set of Lungs (Inflamation)	1

OTHER FOODS.

$4\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Ox Tongue (3 tins).

6 lbs. Corned Beef (1 tin).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of persons licensed to act as slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year was 30. Before an application for a licence is granted, steps are taken to ensure that the applicant is a fit and proper person to slaughter animals.

Butcher's Shops and Stalls.

There are 19 butcher's shops in the district and two stalls on the market every Friday. The condition of the premises cannot be reported upon as they have not been periodically visited as in previous years.

Game Dealers.

Seven applications were received from local tradesmen for licences to deal in game, and in each instance a licence was granted.

The Petroleum Acts.

No. of applications to store petroleum received ...	30
No. of licences granted	30
Quantity of petrol which may be kept on licensed premises ...	45,800 gallons

These premises are inspected periodically and in a number of cases it was necessary to ask for additional fire extinguishers and a quantity of sand to be kept in buckets in an easily accessible position.

Staff.

It is with much pleasure that I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the help given by my assistant, Mr. G. Ellis, who commenced his duties in a temporary capacity on the 3rd October, 1938, and to acknowledge the kind co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health and my colleagues in other departments.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. LANCASTER,
Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GREEN HALL.
WILMSLOW.